

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti “Follow Me”



<http://www.communityencompass.org/mclaughlin-grows-urban-farm/>

No matter who you are or where you are
on life's journey, you're welcome here.

August 9, 2015

10:00 am

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost



*An open and affirming community
committed to peace and justice*

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:

NCH (Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")
Sing! (Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)
ES (Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

*All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak
with the Pastor or any member of the Community.*

Prelude

Sonya Belaya

***Gathering Hymn**

"Hope of the World"

46 NCH - Sonya Belaya

Welcome

Kelsie Molter

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.

We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshipping with us today!

****Please rise in body or spirit as you are able***

Announcements

Kelsie Molter

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Ring the Bell

***Hymn**

"Children of God"

533 NCH

As we prepare for worship we ask: Bread of heaven, feed us. Word of truth, teach us. Author of life, fit us for eternity amid our days on this earth. We hope that all of our deed will honor you. Help us to be kind and tenderhearted toward one another and to forgive one another as, in Christ, you have forgiven us. Amen.

LISTENING FOR GOD

Old Testament Reading	2 Samuel 23:1-7	Kelsie Molter
Hymn	"Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"	136 NCH
Children's Time	<i>children are invited to come forward</i>	
New Testament Reading	JOHN 3:1-17	Rev. Regina D. Jemison
Sermon	"Live By The Spirit."	Rev. Regina D. Jemison
*Hymn	"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"	495 NCH

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Rev. Regina D. Jemison

*All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time.
Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.*

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Alternate Version Rev. Regina D. Jemison

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

I Believe

I believe in the equality of all,
rich and poor.

I believe in liberty.

I believe in humanity, and that through it
we can create unity.

I believe in the love within each of us,
and in the home, happy and healthy.

I believe in the forgiveness of our sins.

I believe that with divine help
we will have the strength to establish
equality in society.

I believe in unity,
the only way to achieve peace, and
I believe that together we can obtain justice.

- Prayer of an Ayacucho Youth Group, Peru from *Let Justice Roll Down*

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Unison)

Rev. Regina D. Jemison

We who have accepted abundant gifts from God need always to profess our thanks. We who have eaten manna in the wilderness are chosen to pass on the bread of life to neighbors in our own community and around the world. May our giving reflect the fragrant offering and sacrifice of Jesus Christ! Amen.

Offertory

Sonya Belaya

*Doxology

"Take My Gifts"

562 NCH

*Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!*

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Kelsie Molter

Thank you, God, for your continuing presence in our life. Thank you for the living bread, Jesus Christ who feeds our spirits. In gratitude for your grace and our opportunities, we dedicate our offering and ourselves. May the needs of many be addressed in ways that bring hope, grace, and love to your children. Amen.

— Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure**

“Christ, for the World We Sing”

69 ES

***Benediction**

Rev. Regina D. Jemison

Postlude

Sonya Belaya

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace

Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.

**First Congregational United Church of Christ
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218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website: www.ypsiucc.com**



God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Our Volunteers	Today: August 9 th	Next Sunday: August 16 th
Usher	Wayne Burling	Lyle Molter
Preaching	Rev. Regina D. Jemison	Carol Hall
Worship Leader	Kelsie Molter	Donna Eyster
Worship Set-up	Glenda Horvath	Donna Eyster
Acolyte	Lyle Molter	Hunter Turner
Friendship Time	Barb Garland	Melanie Harner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO MEETING: August 30, 2015, immediately following the worship service, there will be a **Quarterly Meeting** of the First Congregational United Church of Christ of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Old business, information, reports and new business will be brought before the Congregation at that time.

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's address: *Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and **Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights**, or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WICIR>.

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition**, or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website <http://www.mi-onc.org> or on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/>

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition)**. In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.
See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

OUR WEBSITE: <http://www.ypsiucc.org> Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913>.

KROGER FUNDRAISER: HAVE YOU RE-REGISTERED WITH KROGER!! Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card **MUST** register. **Last Year's registration expires May 1st** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.
Go to www.kroger.com and click "REGISTER". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.

About this week's cover photo:

This image was found at Google Images and took me to a spot not too far from Ypsilanti!

McLaughlin Grows is an organic urban farm located in the McLaughlin Neighborhood of Muskegon, Michigan. When Community enCompass, a non-profit neighborhood development organization began exploring the idea of community gardens, several area businesses supported the idea and the seeds of diverse partnerships were planted. Goodwill Industries of West Michigan offered use of a vacant half-acre lot behind their corporate headquarters; the Community Foundation for Muskegon County provided a generous donation for start-up costs; and we secured a full-time program coordinator with an Organic Farming Certificate from Michigan State University. With help from the Muskegon County Department of Employment and Training, the Community EnCompass Youth Employment Program hired six neighborhood youth, and we broke ground in May 2009.

McLaughlin Grows seeks to:

- *Provide employment, training, and hands-on educational experiences to core city youth.*
- *Transform the local food system by providing core city residents and institutions access to nutritious, affordable, organic produce.*
- *Build healthy neighborhoods by creating green space, promoting social interaction and fostering a sense of community.*

McLaughlin Grows aims to become a model of sustainable urban agriculture within three years.